

## **(Parentheses) On the Water Bill – What does it Mean?**

A number of customers have called inquiring about their balance due which seems to be growing larger with each payment they make. If you receive a bill with the balance due in parentheses, ( ) it means you have a credit balance and you owe nothing at this time. The credit will be taken against next month's charges for a reduced balance due or until the credit has been used; however, if you receive a bill with a balance due of (\$30.00) and you pay \$30.00, you will now have a (\$60.00) credit towards your next bill. Many of our customers pay in advance or have implemented their own version of budget billing. The district does not offer budget billing; however, you can calculate your average usage over the past twelve months to come up with an estimated total. Remember that any unpaid balances over sixty days are subject to turn off.

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***In an emergency call the District's main office number 24 hours a day at 303-985-7895. Calls received outside normal working hours will be answered by the District's answering service and the information will be directed to on call service personnel for assistance.***

### **LAKEHURST WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT**

7995 West Quincy Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80123  
(303) 985-7895

David Bane, President  
William "Jake" Schild, Vice President  
Steven Posavec, Secretary  
Mitch Gerstenkorn, Treasurer  
Mike Cochran, Member

DISTRICT MANAGER  
Steve Daldegan



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# bulletin

## **District Water Rates Change No Change to Sewer Rates in 2014**

The Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved the 2014 Budget and adopted an overall 3.6% increase to water rates. The Board's action was in response to a 3.6% increase in Master Meter water rates from Denver Water.

The rate increase will affect all District commercial and residential customers. The charge for the water usage will increase from \$4.05 per thousand gallons to \$4.20 for each thousand gallons of water used. The monthly base charge of \$6.00/SFE/month will not increase, the monthly base charge covers the on-going costs to maintain and replace customer's water meters as needed.

Sewer fees for 2014 will not increase and will remain at \$21.10 per month/sfe. This fee covers costs for the continued operation and maintenance of over 68 miles of various-size sewer mains.

The new water rates will take effect January 1, 2014.

Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District assesses no mill levy to its property owners and relies on water and sewer rates for revenue. These revenues are used to purchase water and offset the operation and maintenance expenses for over 76 miles of various-size water mains and replacement of the aging water system.

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The Lakehurst Board and staff continues to find ways to improve efficiency and cut costs through prudent management practices, while providing good quality services at a reasonable rate.

Additional information regarding the rate increases or other water or sewer related topics could be obtained from the Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District office at (303) 985-7895.

## Testing a Toilet for Leaks:

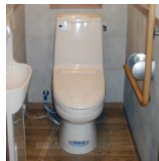
There are a number of signs that a toilet needs some repairs, but many toilets leak without conspicuous indications of trouble. Here are some of the obvious signs of a leaking toilet:

- If you have to jiggle the handle to make a toilet stop running.
- Any sounds coming from a toilet that is not being used are sure signs of leaks.
- If you have to hold the handle down to allow the tank to empty.
- If you see water running over the top of the overflow, you definitely have a leaking refill valve. If you are unsure whether or not water is running over the top of the overflow pipe; sprinkle talcum powder on top of the water in the tank, and you can clearly see whether or not it is.
- If you can see water trickling down the sides of the toilet bowl long after it's been flushed;
- If water drips out of the refill tube into the overflow pipe;
- If a toilet turns the water on for 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle (otherwise known as the phantom flusher).

### DYE TESTING:

However, even if your toilet doesn't have any of these symptoms, it's still possible that it is leaking. These leaks are known as SILENT LEAKS, because they usually go undetected. There is an easy test you can do that will positively tell you whether or not your toilet is leaking. And if the test shows that the toilet is leaking, there is a second test that tells you what part inside the tank is responsible and needs fixing.

Remove the cover on the toilet tank and carefully set it aside so it can't be accidentally knocked over and cracked. Remove any "in-tank" bowl cleaners that color the water and begin the test with clear water in the tank as well as in the bowl.



You'll need some dye. Hardware stores often sell dye capsules or tablets, but food coloring or instant coffee works fine. Another suggestion is to use several tablespoons of a powdered fruit drink mix; grape flavored is perfect. Now put enough dye in the tank water to give the water a deep color. Wait 30 minutes and make sure nobody uses the toilet. In 30 minutes if you find any of the dyed water is now in the toilet bowl — your toilet is leaking. A properly operating toilet will store water in the tank indefinitely without any water running into the bowl.

Water on the floor around a toilet is certainly a problem. It can be dripping off a sweaty toilet tank during humid weather; it can mean the wax sealing ring under the bowl has disintegrated, or the bowl is cracked; or it can mean the connections under the tank are leaking.

So for now, let's say you've done the dye test and found your toilet is leaking, you now have to find out which part is the culprit...the flush valve or the refill valve. And there's another simple little test that points to the perpetrator of the crime.

Draw a pencil line on the back wall of the tank on the inside of the tank at the waterline. Then turn the water supply off, either under the tank or at the main shutoff — wait 20 to 30 minutes. If the water level remains at the pencil mark — the leak is occurring at the REFILL VALVE, the unit in the left side of the tank. If the water level falls below the pencil mark — the leak is in the FLUSH VALVE, the unit located in the center of the tank.

### ANOTHER TEST:

If you have determined the leak is at the flush valve and you replace the ball, flapper, seal or whatever and it still leaks, there is one more test to further try and pinpoint the problem. This time turn the water off to the toilet before going to bed. In the morning, check the water level. If there's about an inch in the bottom of the tank and the water level is even with the edges of the seat, the leak is either a bad stopper (ball, flapper or whatever) or a damaged seat. On the other hand, if the tank is almost entirely empty, and the water level is below the edges of the seat, the problem is a damaged gasket under the flush valve. This means the tank will have to be separated from the bowl in order to get to the connections.

If you don't have more than one bathroom and must use the toilet during the night, flush the toilet with a bucket of water from the bathtub. Fill a scrub bucket with water and dump the water into the bowl all at one time. It will clear the bowl. Information provided from <http://www.toiletology.com>